

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 1

January - February 2000

Smokey Goes to the Russian Far East

There is no such thing as Smokey Bear in Russia—but there is a Siberian Tiger. And one day, the Russian Federal Forest Service hopes, Siberian Tiger will take over the Smokey role to help spread the story of forest fire prevention.

Darrell Schulte, assistant forest fire management officer, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, recently got a

up-close look at the Russian Federal Forest Service. He viewed how they deal with a myriad of problems, ranging from huge forest fires to a vanishing ability to finance its operations. Schulte was one of four USDA Forest Service personnel invited by the Russians to help them devise solutions to their forest management problems.

The economic crises in Russia is hav-

*excerpted from an article by John Barrows,
Dillon Tribune*

ing dramatic affect on forests in the Russian Far East, Schulte said. They are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the world's logging companies. "If they had the infrastructure," Schulte commented, "there is a possibility they would log everything in sight." Russian forests contain 25 percent of the vegetation in the world and 80 percent of the larch supply.

————— **continued on page 2**



above: Fire prevention poster in the city of Komsomolsk, Russian Far East.

right: Anatoli Troschin, head of greenhouses in Selaniko, Russia, and translator Lydia Volkova at a Russian Federal Forest Service greenhouse. Troschin, wearing Forest Service volunteer cap, built most of three greenhouses at the site himself. The greenhouses grow larch and Korean pine seedlings.



left: Jump foreman at smokejumper base in Komsomolsk. Jumpers carve elaborate artwork on base walls. Scissors are emblematic of training program. Jumpers start out with a ticket. Safety and procedural violations cost a cadet cuts. Two cuts and you're out!

continued from page 1

Citizens also depend upon the forests for subsistence—hunting, fishing and gathering. And with virtually no program of education for the people, 90 percent or more of all forest fires are person-caused.

In the Khabarovsk Region, which Schulte visited, five million acres of wild-fires occurred in 1998, almost twice the 3 million acres of wildfires in the entire United States. Carelessness by citizens is one factor. One major cause of fires is the railroad, a government entity and difficult to hold accountable, Schulte stated.

Lack of funds dramatically affects forest managers. The program receives minimal financial support from the government. Pay is low. Workers might go months without receiving a paycheck.

When fire crews go on site, they literally live off the land. They take their own cook and hunter. Smokjumper crews jump in with the barest of necessities. They carry shovel and axe heads with no handles. They stop, cut handles and mount them before starting to work.



Vladimir Tsygana, "forest supervisor" of a Komsomolsk forest unit, and his wife Galena hosting visiting Forest Service team.

Schulte's job was to help explain the American prevention programs, including prescribed burning. The educational program Schulte introduced included three major points: fire ecology, fire prevention and better and more efficient fire management. Although faced with severe chal-

lenges, the Russian Federal Forest Service "have great pride in what they can do," Schulte explained. Which makes the present assistance by specialists like Darrell Schulte all the more critical.

New Interagency Dispatch Center Gets Results

by Tom Paulson and Kerry Arneson,
Idaho Panhandle National Forests

The new Coeur d'Alene Interagency Dispatch Center is open for business and ready for the 2000 fire season. The dispatch center opened last June with the task of coordinating all fire dispatch responsibilities for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and the five northern counties under Tribal and State protection, including local and rural fire protection organizations.

For the first time, a centralized interagency approach was used to improve communication. Housed under one roof is a team of Forest Service, State and Tribal dispatchers.

Area fire managers were all happy with the way the dispatch center handled the activity during its first year of operation. From July 1 to October 31, the center processed 790 fire reports, resulting in 407 fires that burned a total of 483 acres. Some of the resources assigned to area fires included air tankers, helicopters, local fire

crews and engines, as well as fire crews and engines from out of area.

The dispatch center not only assigned people and equipment to respond to fires in northern Idaho, it also sent aircraft, engines, crews and other overhead to fires in other areas.

From the first fires of spring to the last fires in the fall, it provided response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The dispatch center also serves as the Forest Service's aerial retardant base and coordinates all fire detection flights.

Discussions about integrating response to fires and other similar incidents first began in 1995. Dave Wright, Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests; Jim Steele, Coeur d' Alene Tribe; Eric Thompson, Bureau of Land Management; and Stan Hamilton, Idaho Department of



Grand opening of Interagency Dispatch Center June 17, 1999. L to R: IPNF Forest Supervisor Dave Wright, Director of ID Dept. of Lands Stan Hamilton, Missoula smokejumper Charlie Palmer, BLM Area Manager Eric Thompson, Coeur d'Alene Tribe forester Janel McCurdy, and former R-1 Deputy Director of Fire, Aviation and Air Tom Harbour.

Lands were key players in the integration of fire dispatch duties and co-funding the dispatch center.

A Message from the Regional Forester



Dale
Bosworth

There is a reason we place so much effort into wildlife, fish and plant conservation: the lands administered by the Forest Service provide a significant amount of the available habitat for many of these species.

I am especially concerned about species that are listed as "threatened or endangered" under the Endangered Species Act and those that we've designated as "sensitive." The listings have resulted in significant amounts of energy being spent on process and work re-prioritization rather than conservation and stewardship of these species. I am deeply committed to the conservation of all native species on National Forest System land, and I believe we can find

a better, more proactive and efficient way to manage and conserve these listed species.

As each new species has been listed, the Forest Service and other agencies have gotten better at working through the various procedural requirements to minimize the affects on the public, our employees, and our programs of work. One example is our work on the lynx, proposed for listing as "threatened" by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Regardless of the eventual decision by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, all five Regional Foresters that have lynx within their regions are committed to conserving the species, as are our sister agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

In the future, I want us to get ahead of the listing process and to develop strategies or processes that provide conservation for sensitive species in a positive and timely way. I strongly support the work we are doing with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, state fish and game agen-

cies, tribal governments, and other agencies to determine and meet our research needs for various imperiled species.

I would like us to become more effective with our ecosystem management and restoration efforts and forest planning. By using these tools, we'll encourage functioning ecosystems that will maintain all plants, wildlife and fish – as well as healthy watersheds, forests and grasslands. Easier said than done, I know, but we must continue to manage habitat for the benefit of multiple species.

The more proactive we are, the better for all involved. While at times we have to invest in "process," it would be more efficient to put the bulk of our dollars early into research and programs at the ground level to conserve habitat and species. I want to move toward developing and implementing conservation strategies and programs well in advance of, and hopefully in place of, potential listings.



by Lisa Naas, Content Analysis Enterprise Team, WO EMC

Imagine receiving 3,000 E-mail messages an hour on your planning project. Would you be intimidated? Overwhelmed?

In this age of electronic communication where E-mail messages and faxes often outnumber letters, federal agencies are inundated with more public comments than ever before. The Forest Service's Content Analysis Enterprise Team (CAET), operating under the supervision of the Washington Office Ecosystem Management Coordination staff, helps agencies deal effectively with such challenges.

Formed in 1995, CAET assists both the Forest Service and other federal agencies. "Agencies often cannot afford the staff time it takes to handle public input—especially for large projects," said Michael Schlafmann, CAET project manager.

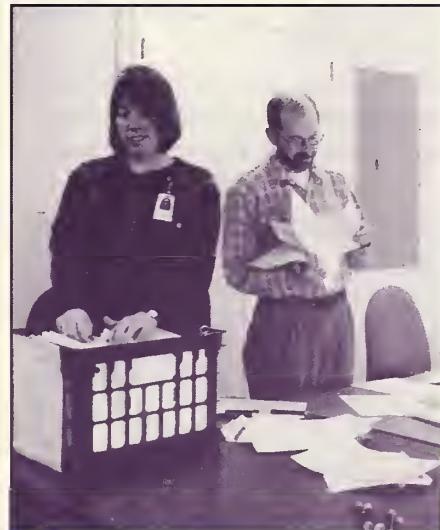
Got mail?

Content Analysis Team gets plenty!

"That's where we can step in and lend a hand." The team has expanded to meet increasing demand for its services and now staffs offices in Missoula (in the Regional Office) and Salt Lake City.

CAET works on a variety of projects ranging from local Forest Service plans to national initiatives. Forest Service projects include the Yellowstone Pipeline in Montana, the Forest Service 219 Planning Regulations, and President Clinton's Roadless Area Initiative. An example of other federal projects include the Yosemite Valley Management Plan for the National Park Service.

The pay-off for team members is the chance to take part in a wide variety of land management projects and policy initiatives across agency boundaries," adds Schlafmann. "Many of our staff view their time here as a crash course in different approaches to planning. Most importantly, we derive a sense of satisfaction from serving the public as an advocate of their concerns and needs by helping agencies understand them better."



CAET analysts Leaf Magnuson and Dave Strohmaier sort through a large crate of Yosemite Valley Management Plan letters.

Here's the scoop...

Counting Hare Pellets in Northern Idaho

by Bill Terrill, IPNF

In 1999, the proposed listing of the Canada lynx made for a unique year for silviculture personnel on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Planned thinning activities were halted to assess lynx habitat in northern Idaho. Silviculturists, with their skills in mapping, GPS, and vegetation data collection, focused on one of the primary habitat needs for lynx survival—snowshoe hares.

Snowshoe hares are the lynx's primary winter food source in northern boreal and lodgepole pine forests. Most of what we know about lynx and snowshoe hare are from studies in these forests. We don't know very much about the lynx or the hare in the more diverse forests of northern Idaho. So, the important question concerning lynx habitat in these forests is, what is the population of snowshoe hare and where do they live?



left: Joy Orecchio, forestry tech, Sandpoint RD, counts snowshoe hare pellets.

right: Marsha Papaleo, forestry tech, Sandpoint RD, locating starting point of hare transect with GPS instrument in preparation of establishing snowshoe hare transect on Bonners Ferry RD.

The accepted technique for estimating hare population involves measuring the yearly accumulation of fecal pellets on transects that measure 10 feet by 2 inches. To assist with the study, the IPNF entered into a cooperative agreement with University of Idaho wildlife biologist Dennis Murray, who has considerable experience researching snowshoe hare.

Dr. Murray will not only look at the number of snowshoe hares but will also investigate the characteristics of their habitat. The study should shed light on the relationship between hare populations and vegetative conditions/ land management treatments.

In addition to counting hare pellets, evidence of hare browsing and squirrels were recorded. Tree and dominant shrub species, size, density, and forest "vertical structure" were described. Habitat type, slope and aspect were also noted.



Three IPNF silviculture crews were organized, along with one from the University of Idaho. Ecologist Art Zack, silviculturist William Terrill, and wildlife biologist Bob Ralphs developed the inventory design. Student trainee/forester Lonnie Newton established transect locations, maintained quality control, and monitored the project schedule.

Special credit goes to the "Hare Inventory Crew" who normally work in reforestation and timber stand improvement. Progress was difficult in brushy areas, often with crews on hands and knees—looking for pellets! It was a difficult assignment, but the crews completed their quota of 600 transects (30,000 subplots) and finished the project in just four months.



The Timeless Chalk Buttes

by Gary Foli, Sioux Ranger District,
Custer National Forest



On March 17, 1876, troops led by Major Joseph Reynolds attacked an Indian village along the bank of the Powder River, shattering the placid dawn with the sounds of gunfire. Suffering casualties and losses of supplies, the Indians regrouped and sought refuge in Crazy Horse's Oglala camp.

Later, these tribes joined Sittings Bull's great Hunkpapa encampment at the Blue Earth Hills, known today as the Chalk Buttes. There, the six Indian nations initiated a culmination of tribes with one vision—to fight for freedom from a life confined to reservations.

Although the din of Indian Wars have long since faded, the Chalk Buttes still remain quiescent of society's influences.

Forest Service volunteer Tom LaBarre recently contacted the Sioux Ranger District after completing some work in the Chalk Buttes area. As he dis-

cussed his experience, there was an undercurrent of the significance he attached to his visit. Tom was asked to jot down some reflections about his visit, and with his permission, excerpts are reprinted here:

"A week away from phone calls was the salve my psyche was begging for. A climb up Sweet John is always on my agenda. The view of the wide-open prairie, forest and buttes blend together into a canopy of beauty."

"There are always special moments that make the trip worth the hours in getting there. Like watching the full moon rise behind the Buttes, watching clouds drift in at dusk and turkey visits on Thanksgiving Day not knowing their domestic cousin was on the Weber out back."

"We thought of the sharing of food between Native Americans and their guests, being here over Thanksgiving has true significance. The Chalk Buttes in southeast Montana truly in-

vites you to enjoy its bounty with all your senses.

"In addition to the storytelling, time in camp has always been time shared with my brothers and close friends. They say spirits sometimes fight leaving home, I only know the closer we were to our departure the more dour my attitude became.

"Again, I thank you."

After contemplating Mr. LaBarre's letter it's pleasant to know the area still provides a spiritual reconnection and veneration not only for American Indians, but for someone from New York at the turn of the millennium. One question we must ask ourselves is, "Will someone visiting the Chalk Buttes fifty years from now write a letter thanking the Forest Service for their experience? Starting now we must make sure the answer is "Yes!"

High School Students Help Monitor the Forest

by Jerry Meyer,
Helena National Forest

National forests and high school students. Helena Forest Supervisor Tom Clifford thought there should be a stronger connection between the two and started talking with Gil Alexander with the Montana Science Institute [MSI] to see what could be done.

The result of those conversations, begun in 1996, is an evolving partnership between the forest and the institute.

Located on the north shore of Canyon Ferry Lake, MSI is a non-profit institution managed by Gil and his wife Marilyn. One of the objectives of MSI is to foster young people's understanding of the natural world.

In the summer of 1998, Gil assembled a cadre of gifted students from high schools in Helena, Townsend, and Lincoln. The task Tom asked them to undertake was to review how the forest conducts its annual monitoring of projects for compliance with the Forest Plan. The students were to recommend more up-to-date, efficient approaches.

By the fall of '98, the students submitted their report. Forest staff evaluated their recommendations and selected some items to implement.

Nine students embarked on the first year of data collection this past summer. They helped to monitor vegetation manipulation projects, mine reclamation activities, archeological sites, and grazing allotments. The monitoring of grazing allotments focused on water quality. The students measured pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen, and described streambed material and stream channel characteristics.

The Helena staff was thoroughly impressed by the quality of the students' final reports. On January 24, the forest hosted an award ceremony for the students and their parents. Each student was presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a day pack as a keepsake award.

Based on the results of the past two years and the students' professionalism, Tom Clifford is confident that the partnership



Helena Forest Supervisor Tom Clifford presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Jolie Zapata, an MSI student intern.

will succeed and endure. "I want this project to continue for many years," Tom stated, "and to serve as a model that can be duplicated in other Forest Service units that want to pursue government/student cooperation."

The program will continue in FY 2000, thanks in part to a generous grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Education Program.

Keeping Kids Safe

Forest Service and Sheriff's Department Team Teach Class

*excerpted from an article by Ann Link,
Idaho County Free Press, Grangeville*

Students are bombarded with anti-drug and alcohol programs that teach them how drugs and alcohol can hurt them. But there are few programs that teach kids how to avoid the everyday hazards they encounter in their daily lives.

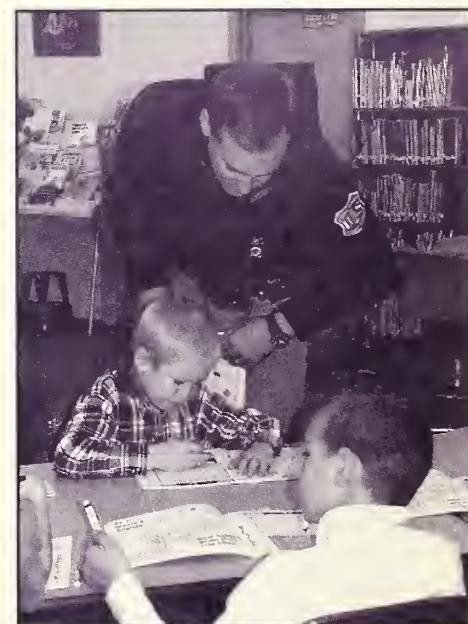
To put more emphasis on those things that are most likely to hurt kids, the Nez Perce National Forest and Idaho County Sheriff's Department recently gave Grangeville Elementary and Elk City School students a lesson in basic safety issues. Steve Didier, forest law enforcement officer, discovered the program called "Be Cool - Play It Safe," and brought it to District 241.

Steve said the program started in Eugene, Oregon, and is aimed at a child's

level, for first through third graders. "We've taught 180 kids so far, and it works great," Steve stated. "The program includes a video, interactive discussion, and workbook activities that reinforces what they've learned."

The 10 items discussed include: motor vehicle safety, gun safety, pedestrian safety, water safety, fire and burn prevention, choking, falling, dog bites, bike safety and drug abuse. "All these things are interesting to children," Steve said, "because it affects their every day lives."

"Be Cool - Play It Safe" was funded through the Nez Perce National Forest's safety program, thanks to deputy zone fire staff officer Byron Bonney. The program will be taught in the first through third grades in District 241 and Prairie Elementary in Cottonwood.



Steve Didier of the Forest Service works with first grader Matthew Moubray at Grangeville Elementary School.

Photo by Ann Link.

Tubing, Skiing, and Snowshoes

"Let me win. If I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." (Special Olympics motto)

by Dixie L. Dies,
Bitterroot National Forest

What did you do the last Tuesday and Wednesday in January? Over 300 athletes, coaches and volunteers were at Lost Trail Ski Area on the Bitterroot National Forest to participate in the 19th Winter Special Olympics.

Each year, Earth and Wood, a landscaping business in the Bitterroot Valley, coordinate the Winter Special Olympics. Athletes from all over southwest Montana, including Bozeman, Missoula, and the Bitterroot Valley, come for two days of competition and fun. Trapper Creek Job Corps staff and students and Bitterroot National Forest employees volunteered for everything from decorating the ski lodge to coordinating events.

Just when I think I don't have time to take on one more activity, I remember an

athlete that completed the cross country track, or finished the snowshoe race with a sense of pride and accomplishment that I sometimes forget in my life.

Are you looking for a reward that is immeasurable—get involved with your local Special Olympics, or better yet, join us next year.



Above: Participant repeating Olympic pledge, "Let me win. If I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Left: Competitors on cross-country short course. Photos by Dixie L. Dies.

by Sandi McFarland,
Clearwater National Forest

What could be more fun than spending three days at Three Meadows camping with 50 fourth and sixth graders? This outdoor education field trip took place in September with young people from Culdesac Elementary School, located within the boundaries of the Nez Perce Indian Reservation.

The Clearwater National Forest joined the Idaho Department of Fish & Game in providing educational activities. The young people learned how to be light on the land through a game called the "web of life" and a recreation use game.

Forest archaeologist Sandi McFarland also instructed the kids on Native American games. Allen Pinkham, forest tribal liaison, provided some quiet time by sharing Nez Perce legends explaining how landforms, animals and the constellations came to be. George Wardman, a

smokejumper out of Grangeville, talked about firefighting tools and smokejumping.

Later that day the outdoor classroom continued with archaeology of a cookie. Any archaeologist can brush up on their archaeology skills with this experiment. All you need is chocolate chip cookies, toothpicks and paper towels. The object of this experiment is to carefully dig the chocolate chips out of the cookie.

It takes patience and extreme care to remove the chips without breaking them. This is exactly the same type of practice you will need if you dig up archaeological remains. After the conclusion of the activity, came the reward - eating the cookie!

To end the day, Smokey Bear paid a visit to the group. Smokey and his helper chatted with the young people on good fire versus bad fire.



Lacy Beegle participates in the outdoor education field trip. Photo by Sandi McFarland.

RTA Set for March 20 - 24

by MaryAlice Stoner
Regional Office



Last year over 900 employees from Regions 1 and 4 attended classes at the Regional Training Academy (RTA). This year, RTA will be held March 20 – 24 on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. Most of the classes offered at the academy will be located in the Gallagher Business Building.

This year, Regional Office Human Resources staff established a new data base which employees can use to register themselves for classes. In addition, attendees can look at the catalogue, get a report of their classes, view a map of the university, and pick up their parking permit, all from the comfort of their desk. The RTA electronic address:

<http://fsweb.rl.fs.fed.us/training/rta>

The general session will be a brown-bag lunch on Wednesday, March 22, from 11:30 to 1:30. The featured speaker will be Bob Marks. Bob is a dynamic speaker who emphasizes innovative thinking. His presentation, "Laugh as

Tho Life Depends on It," focuses on humor, and will provide attendees with ways to deal with everyday frustrations. Plan now to grab some lunch at the University Center and join the Regional Forester and his staff for this special session!

If anyone has any comments that should be considered for RTA Y2K, please contact any of the following core team members at the Regional Office: MaryAlice Stoner, (406) 329-3449; Donna Sheehy (406) 329-3312; Steve Gradhandt, RO (406) 329-3001; Jane Haker, (406) 329-3194; or Tim Gray, (406) 329-3143.

Pickles, Cakes, and Barbecues *for the Cause*

by Jeanne Spooner, Kootenai National Forest

Continuing a yearly tradition of participation in the Combined Campaign, Kootenai National Forest employees topped all their previous efforts by donating a cash total of just over \$28,000 in 1999. Over the past 18 years, forest employees have donated over a quarter million dollars to the Lincoln County Combined Campaign.

To make this year's campaign a success, employees began early with special fund-raising activities. Starting weeks before the kick-off date, employees devoted many personal hours to making handicrafts for sale, auction or raffle at the grand finale potlucks. Among this year's donated items: quilts, a hand-crafted log bed, hand-tied fishing flies, wall plaques, carved wooden clocks, and wreaths. Among the food speciality items offered: homemade jams and jellies, candies, pickles, pies and cakes.



L to R: Kootenai NF AO Jerry Jorgenson, who serves as the chairperson for the Lincoln County Combined Campaign, accepts a \$28,000-check from Kootenai NF employee Frank Votapka, who was the forest campaign coordinator.

Fund raisers such as a chili feed, potlucks, hamburger and hot dog barbecue, a day of snacks, desserts of the month, a ski trip, a guided fishing trip all made money for the cause.

More than half of the total amount collected by Lincoln County for this

year's Combined Campaign came from Kootenai National Forest employee donations. This level of participation by staff shows their deep commitment to making Lincoln County a better place for all.



by Susan Buchel,
*Lewis and Clark
 National Historic Trail Interpretive Center,
 Lewis and Clark National Forest*

Community leaders, river guides, outfitters, historical societies and others who plan events or tell historical stories to the public can improve their skills through a training academy at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center this winter and spring.

The Forest Service, National Park Service, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Association and the Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation are underwriting sessions that range

Great Trainings Coming Up

from planning a community-wide event to honing interpretive writing skills. The group will offer solid nuts-and-bolts sessions each year through the year 2005 to help plan for and present Lewis and Clark Bicentennial programs and events to the public. They have gathered a great roster of instructors from across the state and across the country, expecting to have highly motivated participants, solid content and great discussions.

The sessions available in 2000 include: Interpreting Long Distance Trails (March 27-31); Illuminating Places: An Interpretive Writing Workshop (April 12-13); Porta-potties to Posters: Planning Community Events (May 6); Serving the Lewis

and Clark Visitor (May 13); A Tale Well Told: Interpretation Fundamentals (June 7-9); and Readings in Lewis and Clark with Dr. Gary Moulton (June 14-July 12—Wednesday evenings).

Each course has a small fee to cover expenses, and class sizes are limited. Several of these sessions are available for college credit or teacher re-certification. Call the Interpretive Center at 406-727-8733 for information and registration materials. Registration can be made in person or by mail before the class; deadlines vary depending on the class. No telephone registration will be taken.

Christmas...A Time To Give

by Cass Cairns, Bitterroot National Forest

It is especially hard for a family to face bleak times during the holidays. But those are situations where caring people can make a difference.

For several years throughout the Bitterroot National Forest and Trapper Creek Job Corps thoughtful employees and retirees have chosen to take the opportunity to make that difference. More than 10 years ago, Bitterroot forest staff contacted the Ravalli County Human Services office in pursuit of "adopting" their first family. Over the years it has expanded from one family to as many as four.

Contributions range from clothing, food, toys, furniture and money, collected at each forest office and the Job Corps Center. Employees circulate periodic updates to let people know what is still needed. On an appointed day, all items are brought into the Supervisor's Office for sorting and wrapping. Cash



Bitterroot National Forest employees wrap packages for their "adopted" family.

donations go toward purchasing any needed item. Employees load up the presents and deliver all the items to the families shortly before Christmas.

It's obvious the families appreciate the spirit in which the gifts are given. One recipient, a single mother, answered

her front door to one of the delivery staff, saw the vehicle in her driveway stuffed from front to back with presents and food. She was so surprised and overwhelmed that she started to cry. These are the times you realize, "To give is to receive."

Orchids for the Bitterroot

by Dixie L. Dies,
Bitterroot National Forest

The West Fork Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, was honored with the Orchid Award from the Idaho Historic Preservation Council. For over 20 years, the council has recognized statewide preservation successes with this award to help stimulate interest and promote understanding of historic preservation activities.

The district was recognized for its outstanding performance in the management and proactive preservation of historic buildings, and, specifically, for the restoration work at Cooper's Flat, Magruder Ranger Station, and Horse Heaven Cabin.



L to R: Idaho Historic Preservation Council President Jeff Urban, Diane Mercer of Priest River, and West Fork District Ranger Dave Campbell.

Custer Gives "Extra Effort" Awards

by Buck Feist, Custer National Forest

The Custer National Forest recently presented "extra effort awards" to several of its employees. **Ann Peters**, budget analyst at the Supervisor's Office, was given an award for her work in developing a Microsoft

Access database for identifying a program of work and setting project priorities for funding by the forest.

Halcyon LaPoint, forest archeologist, was also recognized for her work with Ann Peters in development of the microsoft access data base and for her "extra effort in assisting in preparation

for outreach to Native American high school students at the job fair sponsored by the Little Bighorn College."

For taking his own time to assist the Sioux Ranger District in training volunteer fire fighters, Fire Management Officer **Paul Mock**, with the Supervisor's Office, was presented an award.

Pederson Employer of Year

by Laura Smith, Nez Perce National Forest

Darcy Pederson, district ranger of the Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest, recently received the "Employer of the Year" award from the Grangeville Chamber of Commerce.

Darcy was recognized because of her knowledge of her job, her commitment to the district and its employees, her dedication to community, and her devotion to family. As stated in the nomination submitted by fellow employees: "She knows the district probably as well, or

better, than anyone, and sincerely cares about the management of the resources. Darcy is objective and gets to know the issues, concerns, opinions and needs before she imparts her answer or decision."

At the district, Darcy changed the leadership organization to a self-managing team - a new, bold and unorthodox management style. And the team, with Darcy as a coach, is making it work. Her approach is to stand her ground, while supporting the district and its employees, even when it is a difficult thing to do.



Darcy Pederson

Darcy has willingly volunteered and participated in community events. She is respected and highly thought of by her peers, her employees, and private citizens alike.

PGR Gets Director



Ed Nesselroad

Ed Nesselroad was selected as the Northern Region's director of Public and Governmental Relations, effective November 7, 1999. He replaces Beth Horn, who retired in February 1999.

Ed transferred from Region 2, where he worked for the Recreation and Public Service Team. He was with the unit for over 11 years where he served in such capacities as regional legislative affairs and strategic issues program manager, branch chief for interpretation and conservation education, and regional recreation fee demo program coordinator.

From 1980-88, Ed was public affairs officer for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, R-2. Experience in the political arena includes working as the director of district operations for a U.S.

Congressman, 1977-80, and press officer for a U.S. Congressman, 1975-76. In the private sector, he was creative director, specializing in broadcast and multi-media, for an advertising and public relations agency from 1973-75. Ed was in broadcasting from 1965-73, in such jobs as staff announcer, reporter, sports director, news and program director.

Ed revealed to the PGR staff that he has served in the U.S. Army Reserve for the past 30 years and has attained the present rank of command sergeant major. He promises to keep that background under control and only occasionally breaks into a resounding "hooah" when appropriate.

An avid ham radio operator, Ed also enjoys raising Labrador retrievers, fishing, and photography.

Murphy Heads to the Clearwater Forest

by Laura Smith, Nez Perce National Forest

Elayne Murphy, public affairs officer for the Nez Perce National Forest, recently accepted a lateral reassignment to public affairs officer on the Clearwater National Forest in Orofino. She fills in behind Deanna Riebe, who retired January 3. Elayne's reporting date is March 12.

A University of Idaho graduate, Elayne started her career with the Forest Service in 1983 as front desk receptionist at the Supervisor's Office, Nez Perce National Forest, in Grangeville. The same year she moved to the Powell Ranger Station, Clearwater National Forest, and worked as receptionist until 1984. From 1984-89, Elayne was the information assistant at the

Supervisor's Office, Clearwater National Forest. In 1989, Murphy advanced to public affairs officer for the Nez Perce National Forest. During the duration of her time as PAO, she served as fire information officer for the Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Zone.

Elayne helped bring people together through partnerships and the Rural Community Development program with much success. She is an excellent facilitator/trainer in public involvement locally and throughout the region.

Murphy currently resides in Kooskia with husband Pat, fisheries biologist on the Clearwater National Forest, and sons Bryan, 12 and Shawn, 9.



Elayne Murphy

Aiding in Resource Protection

by John Preston,
North Fork Law Enforcement Officer

Clearwater National Forest employees **Jerry Branning, Steve Carter, Greg Key, Stewart Wilson, and Skip Danielson**, and volunteer hosts **Ted and Jo Billy** are the winners of the 1999 North Fork Ranger District's Resource Protection Awards.

These employees and volunteer hosts took the extra time, and in some cases their own time, to report or become involved in the solving of resource-related violations on the district. For example, Ted and

Jo Billy took a complaint from a forest visitor who was rafting on the North Fork River. The visitor reported four persons shooting from a moving vehicle into the water.

The hosts reported the story by radio to the district law enforcement officer (LEO). While the LEO and sheriff's deputy searched for the suspects, the Billys went back to the campground to talk further with the person reporting the incident. Ted and Jo then got a better description of the suspects and their vehicle.

The result was that law enforcement

found and cited the four suspects for six violations of both State and federal laws. As it turned out, these four suspects told the LEO's they were throwing beer bottles out of a moving pickup truck on the forest road and attempting to shoot the bottles with a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol.

The act of prompt reporting of a violation over the radio, or talking to forest visitors about what they may have seen may be all that is needed to solve many of the resource violations that occur each year. Our thanks to the five employees and two volunteers for their efforts.



Greg Greenhoe

Greenhoe is Deputy Director of FAA

As of January 2, **Gregory Greenhoe** is the new deputy director for R-1's Fire, Aviation and Air. He came from the Angeles National Forest, R-5, where he was Fire, Aviation and Watershed management officer.

Greg has a B.S. degree in forest and watershed management from the University of Arizona. He began his career with the

Forest Service in 1965 on a timber stand improvement crew and as a smoke chaser for Tonto National Forest, R-3. While in college, he worked for the Coronado National Forest as an engine foreman and superintendent of the Catalina Hot Shots.

After college, Greg transferred to the Descanso Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest in 1975 as an engine captain, then was promoted to assistant district fire management officer for the Trabuco Ranger District in 1977. In 1982 he was selected as district resource/recreation officer back on the Descanso district.

Other positions include: vegetation program management coordinator, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, San Diego Ranger unit (Interagency Personnel Act assignment), 1985-89; assistant forest fire management officer, Cleveland National Forest, 1989-92; Fire, Aviation and Watershed deputy management officer, 1992-96; and Fire, Aviation, and Watershed management officer (1996-99).

Greg served as both an operations and planning section chief on national incident management teams, 1989-95, and as a national incident commander, 1996-99.

Timchak Heads to Yellowstone



Larry Timchak

Larry Timchak, who has spent most of his career with the Forest Service in the Northern Region, was looking for an opportunity to broaden his experience while staying in Montana. The opportunity finally came

along. Larry recently accepted a position with Yellowstone National Park as the

executive director of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, effective March 13.

"I'm excited about this opportunity to help coordinate policy and management between the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," Larry said. The coordinating committee includes forest supervisors from 6 national forests in regions 1, 2, and 4, the superintendents of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and manager of the National Elk

Refuge in Jackson Hole.

Wearing a round hat will take some adjustment but Timchak is ready for new challenges. "There's no shortage of major issues to keep me busy," Larry commented. "Winter use, grizzly bear conservation strategies, bison management—the list goes on!"

As an added bonus, Larry will be able to return to his home in Billings and work out of the Custer Forest Supervisor's Office.

North Fork District Ranger Makes Dreams Come True

by Kathy Thompson,
Clearwater National Forest

In 1949 Jack and Bettye Minton honeymooned at a lookout in the backcountry of Idaho following their June wedding in Indiana. They both worked for the Forest Service, she a lookout; he a laborer, stringing telephone lines and clearing trails.

Fifty years later the Mintons had a dream: What if they could celebrate their golden anniversary at Osier Ridge Lookout where they started married life?

Their dream pulled on the heart strings of Clearwater National Forest Supervisor Jim Caswell, North Fork District Ranger Doug Gober, and District Staff Officer Jennefer Sundberg.

Obstacles lined the path from dream to reality. Osier Ridge was an active fire lookout. Fire season started early. Even the possibility of at least being in the area at a campground once the site of the Kelly Creek Ranger District's Cedars substation disappeared with reconstruction. One

hope remained: there might be a week late in the season if (a big IF) lightning storms held off and fire season wound down.

They did. When the lookout left her post, the Mintons moved in. They spent a week "reacquainting ourselves with familiar sights," scanning the horizon, searching for familiar landmarks.

Jack first came to the Clearwater in 1943. He worked on blister rust control, returning the following year as a lookout. He served in the Navy in 1945-46, then came back to the Clearwater in 1947. In 1948 he was the lookout at Osier Ridge. Then in 1949 he brought his bride back with him. For the Mintons, high atop Osier Ridge, Kelly Creek was their world.

Returning to Osier Ridge was "truly memorable," and both said in a letter to Caswell, "We can't praise your staff enough. Everyone treated us royally; we felt like honored guests." They especially praised Jennefer, who was "outstanding (and relentless) in her quest to find a week for us."

Today Jack and Bettye live in Peoria, Arizona. They have two sons, one in Colorado, a computer analyst and programmer; and the other in New Mexico, a chemical researcher. They visit them now and again, when their quest to find lookouts takes them around the western half of the nation. Nowadays "we visit lookout towers. That's what we do," said Bettye.



Jack and Bettye Minton with District Staff Officer Jennefer Sundberg, who was outstanding (and relentless) in her quest to find a week when the Mintons could take their sentimental journey.

Retirements

Evelyn Bruner, support services supervisor for the Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, retired January 1, culminating 30 years with the Forest Service.

Evelyn started her career on the Jackson Ranger District, Beaverhead National Forest, as a clerk-typist in 1962. She moved from there to the Wise River Ranger District and then to the Beaverhead Supervisor's Office as supervisory clerk steno. In 1967 she accepted an appointment in the timber management shop in Region 5 at San Francisco, until she resigned in 1968.

In 1973 Evelyn returned to the Forest Service, working as a clerk-

In case you hadn't heard, **John Case** with the Clearwater National Forest, decided to retire after 40 years with the agency.

After getting his B.S. degree in forestry from Michigan State University, John began his career with the Forest Service as a seasonal worker working during the summers of 1959 and 1960 on the Kingston Ranger Station, Coeur d'Alene National Forest. He was then converted to career-conditional forester and worked at the district until 1962.

John then entered military service and was an officer with the U.S. Navy on active duty from 1963-65 on a destroyer and ASSA/ULT troop ship. In 1966 John returned to work for the Forest Service as a forester with the Kingston Ranger Station (now part of the

After 27 years with the Forest Service, **Dory Engle**, with the Clearwater National Forest, is going to exchange her career as a realty specialist for retirement and time to work on a novel.

Dory began her career in Region 1 in 1972 as a district clerk at the Elk City Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest. In 1974 She transferred to the Clearwater National Forest as a receptionist/telephone operator/librarian, and later held positions as resource clerk and conveyance examiner. In 1987 Dory accepted a position as land law examiner with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Region 6. She attained the position of realty specialist in

John Greer, deputy forest supervisor for the Lewis and Clark National Forest, returned October 1, 1999. He had a total of 30 years of federal employment, 27 with the Forest Service.

John, who was born in New Hampshire, has worked in several regions: as a forestry technician/wildlife biologist, R-9's White Mountain National Forest, 1972-75; a wildlife biologist, R-9's Green Mountain National Forest, 1975-77; resource forester, Kootenai National Forest, 1977-78; resource assistant, Nez Perce National

Deanna Riebe, public affairs officer for the Clearwater National Forest, decided that after 20 years it was time to pull the plug. She started her career with the agency in McCall, Idaho, in 1979 as a resource clerk for R-4's Payette National Forest. In 1984 she took the job of public information assistant for the Siuslaw National Forest in Corvallis, Oregon.

Deanna's next stop was the Regional Office in Missoula when she became the editor of the *Northern Region News* in 1987. Her final move was made in 1991 to the Clearwater forest where she was the public affairs officer assistant. She became the public affairs officer five years later.

typist/resource clerk at the Avery Ranger District, IPNF. In 1979 Evelyn accepted the resource clerk position at Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, moving to the Plains District of the Lolo in 1984. In 1987 Evelyn accepted a promotion to support services supervisor at the Cabinet district where she remained until her retirement.

Evelyn's retirement plans include traveling, visiting sons Steven and Michael in Bozeman, and working on home improvements with her husband Smith Bruner at their home in Thompson Falls.
by Jeanne Spooner, Kootenai National Forest

newly formed Coeur d' Alene River Ranger District). From 1974-78, John worked on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District until he transferred to Orofino to become a forester on the Kelly Creek District of the Clearwater. (Kelly Creek is now part of the North Fork District.) He moved to the Supervisor's Office in 1975, where he remained until his retirement.

John and his wife Pat have two children. Their son Doug lives with his wife in the Boise area. Their daughter Colleen, who also works for the Forest Service, is in her second year at the University of Idaho. John and Pat plan to remain in Orofino where, as he stated, "I'll work at completing past years' chore list in between anything else I can find to do which is more fun."

1991 with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. She returned home to the Clearwater forest in 1996 as the realty specialist, and in 1998, assumed the duties of regional title programs manager.

Dory grew up in Sitka, Alaska, where she married and started her family. She has five children, fourteen grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Upon retirement, Dory plans to visit all her children, grandchildren and other relatives whom she hasn't seen for a while. Another retirement goal: finishing the historical novel she started, set in the Northwest.

Forest, 1978-84; district ranger on R-5's Klamath National Forest, 1984-91; and moving in 1991 to Great Falls to be the deputy forest supervisor.

John and his wife Marge have three children. Daughter Heidi lives in California; son John is in Missoula; and Gretchen resides in Delaware. John and Marge will continue to live in Cascade and spend time packing with their packgoats and donkey into the back country.

Retirement means Deanna can move back to McCall, Idaho, where she will be closer to family, particularly her three grandchildren who live in Boise. She'll also have time to pursue her other interests like herbology, naturopathy, and other forms of alternative medicine. She's already signed up for a class in "herbology" and one in energy healing.



Deanna Riebe

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD - DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

AVERY, BILL, forester, Madison RD/Sheridan Wk Ctr, QSI
 BARKLEY, ROY, forestry technician, Pintler RD, QSI
 BARRINGER, PAT, civil engineering technician, Jefferson RD, Performance Award
 CARD, DAVID, computer specialist, Custer NF, promotion, SO
 EDELEN, RUSS, biological science technician, Pintler RD, Performance Award
 FISHER, JACKIE, criminal investigator, promotion, Butte RD
 FULBRIGHT, ZANE, archaeologist, Nez Perce NF, promotion, SO
 GERDES, STEVE, fish biologist, Pintler RD, QSI
 HAMANN, ELIZABETH, wildlife biologist, Jefferson RD, Performance Award
 HARRINGTON, JAMES, forestry technician, Kootenai NF, promotion, forestry technician, (AFMO), Pintler RD
 HINKLE, HEIDI, business management clerk, promotion, business management Assistant, Pintler RD
 JANIK, JOHN, forestry technician, Madison RD, Performance Award
 JOHNS, ROBERT, forestry technician, Butte RD, QSI
 KIECKBUSCH, SANDY, support services specialist, Jefferson RD, performance award
 KIRKELIE, LINDA, computer specialist, SO, QSI
 MICKELSON, GINA, resource clerk, Pintler RD, QSI
 McLAUGHLIN, DOREEN, budget & accounting analyst, SO, QSI
 McKNIGHT, HARRIET, computer assistant, SO, performance award
 QUINN, BRIAN, forester, promotion, Wise River RD
 RICE, DON, carto technician, SO, QSI
 RUSSELL, LAURIE, accounting technician, SO, QSI
 STEERMAN, ROGER, forestry technician, IPNF, promotion, supervisory forestry tech (FMO), Jefferson RD
 SUENRAM, PERI, social scientist, SO, performance award
 TOLF, ERIC, rangeland management specialist, Jefferson RD, performance award
 WILLIAMS, JOAN, forestry technician, Pintler RD, QSI

Reassignments & Transfers

GIACOLETTO, MARK, supervisory forestry technician, reassignment, supervisory forester, Pintler RD
 HARPER, JOEL, wildlife biologist, Medicine Bow-Routt NF, reassignment, Pintler RD

New Employees

BRAMMER, JAMES, fishery biologist, cc appointment, SO Annex
 COFFEY-AVEY, CRYSTAL, resource clerk, reinstatement, Madison RD
 EDWARDS, JOSHUA, range management specialist, cc appointment, Pintler RD
 HERTIN, GARY, lead forestry technician, cc appointment, Butte RD
 MORGAN, DAVIC, rangeland technician, cc appointment, Madison RD/
 Sheridan Wk Ctr

Retirements & Resignations

DIGALIS, JOHN, forestry technician, Pintler RD, retirement
 NOYES, REID, forestry technician, Jefferson RD, resignation
 HARVEY, CAROL, forestry technician, Wise River RD, retirement

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BEER, JEFF, supv. training specialist, Trapper JCC, QSI
 CAIRNS, CASS, information assistant, SO, QSI
 CASE, WILLIAM, center director, Anaconda JCC, performance award
 DARDIS, MICHAEL supv. forestry technician, Darby RD, QSI
 HOAG, BARTON, forestry technician, Darby RD, QSI
 KENNEDY, LAUNA, computer assistant, Anaconda JCC, QSI
 MENK, JEFFREY, teacher, Trapper JCC, QSI
 PRICE, JEANNETTE, center director, Trapper JCC, performance award
 SWINDLE, CHINOOK, vocational training specialist, Trapper JCC, QSI

New Employees

CASTOR, SARAH, office automation clerk, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

BRASSFIELD, ROBERT, biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service, reassignment, fishery biologist, Stevensville RD

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

ALT, BARBARA, accounting technician, promotion, budget & accounting analyst, SO
 CROWDER, JUDY, resource assistant, Helena NF, promotion, computer assistant, SO
 HIGHBERGER, THOMAS, forestry technician, Beartooth RD, performance award
 MORITZ, AMY, forestry technician, Fremont NF, promotion, Ashland RD
 PUCKETT, DAVID, forestry technician, Sioux RD, promotion
 STUNDINER, SCOTT, rangeland management specialist, promotion, Ashland RD

New Employees

LANE, JOHN, soil scientist, reinstatement career-conditional, SO
 KEMBEL, KIMBERLY, computer specialist, reinstatement career, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

HOFFMAN, TERENCE, construction rep, army engineers, transfer, Civil engineering technician, SO
 MFARLAND, ELIZABETH, land management planner, Salmon-Challis NF, reassignment, District Ranger, Ashland RD

Retirements & Resignations

DAGUE, JAMES, district ranger, Sioux RD, retirement
 EASLEY, THOMAS, student trainee forestry, Beartooth RD, resignation
 TYLER, KIP, forestry technician, Beartooth RD, resignation

DAKOTA PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS

Retirements & Resignations

MAXWELL, JUDY, botanist, resignation

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

DAHLGREN, GARY, supervisory forester, SO, promotion
 DRAGO, MICHELLE, planning team leader, Hungry Horse RD, performance award
 HAMILTON, JOHN, supervisory archeologist, performance award
 LEISINGER, PAMELA, support services specialist, Swan Lake RD, promotion
 MC GUIRE, KYLE, archeology technician, SO, special act award
 ROBERSON, RUTH, forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, performance award
 TRECHSEL, HEIDI, forester, Hungry Horse RD, performance award

Reassignments & Transfers

HENDRICK, BLAKE, contract specialist, SO, reassignment

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

FOSTER, BRENT, forester, Winema NF, promotion, supervisory forester, Big Timber RD
 GIBSON, DEBBIE, personnel assistant, promotion, personnel management specialist, SO
 GRUNEWAHL, SUE, personnel assistant, promotion, supervisory personnel assistant, SO
 KLARICH, BOB, forester, SO, promotion, regional lands specialist, R4-RO
 MARTELL, STEVEN, forestry technician, promotion, FEGI
 MARTELL, STEVEN, forestry technician, FEGI, QSI
 PINCZES, JOHN, forestry technician, FEG, performance award
 RONNEBERG, CARL, range technician, promotion, Big Timber RD
 SCHLENKER, KIMBERLY, forester, promotion, SO
 SOLLID, SHERM, supervisory geologist, promotion, SO
 STOWELL, LINDA, information assistant, Bozeman RD, promotion, personnel clerk, SO

New Employees

ORR, TODD, lead forestry technician, cc appointment, FEG

Reassignments & Transfers

BUHL, NORM, engineering technician, Bozeman RD, reassignment, civil engineer technician, SO
 BURTON, A. LYNN, rangeland management specialist, Wallowa-Whitman NF, reassignment, supervisory rangeland management specialist, Bozeman RD
 JACKSON, ALLISON, natural resource specialist, Salmon-Challis NF, reassignment, Gardiner RD
 MORRIS, ERIC, forestry technician, Bitterroot NF, Livingston RD, reassignment
 STANGL, JANINE, wildlife biologist, reassignment, rangeland management specialist, Livingston RD
 WILSON, TODD, forestry technician, Livingston RD, reassignment, Bitterroot NF

Retirements & Resignations

DENECKE, DICK, forestry technician, FEG, retirement
 PINCZES, JOHN, forestry technician, FEG, retirement

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

MC KINNON, DON, forestry technician, SO to RO timber, promotion

New Employees

KING, SUSAN, personnel clerk, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

FEIGLEY, RACHEL, wildlife biologist, townsend RD
 WHITEMAN, WENDY, contracting officer, SO from San Bernardino

Retirements

VERBEKE, MARY, information assistant Lincoln RD, resigned

Personnel Actions

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BAIN, JANE, personnel specialist, SO, quality step increase
BOJONELL, HILARE, hydrologist, SO, to aquatic ecologist, WO
Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff, promotion
CAIN, LYNN, computer specialist, SO, promotion
CARDWELL, KEVIN, assistant fire management officer, Libby RD, quality step increase
DICKERSON, GARY, forester, SO, to R1 RO, promotion
GAUGER, DELLORA, public information assistant, Fortine RD, to R1 RO, promotion
MAFFEI, THOMAS, forester, SO, to supervisory biological scientist, SO, temporary promotion
NELSON, BRENDA, accounting technician, SO, temporary promotion
PERKINSON, RAYMOND, fish biologist, SO, to WO Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff, promotion
REICHERT, J. CHRIS, supervisory forester, Three Rivers RD to SO, forester, temporary promotion
TORGRIMSON, PENNY, purchasing agent, Cabinet RD, to support services supervisor, temporary promotion
WICKA, LETA, procurement clerk, SO, purchasing agent, RO, promotion
New Employees
VANDINE, SHIRLEY, information receptionist, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

JONES, SHANE, fish biologist, Three Rivers RD, to U.S. Dept of Fish & Wildlife, promotion
NIX, JANET, resource clerk, SO, administrative support assistant, Bureau of Land Management, promotion
SCHITTOLE, MARLENA, accounting technician, SO, Rocky Mountain Research Station, transfer
Retirements & Resignations
BRUNER, EVELYN, support services supervisor, Cabinet RD
ENRIGHT-BAWDEN, DIANA, public information assistant, Cabinet RD
HUNTER, CHARLES, supervisory forestry technician, FMO, Three Rivers RD
JIMENO, GERALD, forester, SO
MCBRIDE, JAMES, forestry technician, Libby RD
MELLEM, M. JANE, resource specialist, SO

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

SCHWECKE, DICK, travel management planner, from Judith RD to SO
SCOTT, GLENDA, forester, SO to the RO
SECREST, JESS, assistant FMO, Kings Hill RD

Reassignments & Transfers

NEWTON, RICHARD, archeologist, SO to the Lincoln NF



Johnny Breazeal, 82, passed away January 31 at his home in Missoula. An Arkansas native, Johnny joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in Idaho before being drafted into the Army in 1941. He served in Europe as an MP and later as an engineer until his discharge in 1945. Johnny returned to Idaho and worked

for the Forest Service at the Powell Ranger Station. He moved to the Bonita Ranger Station in 1950 and worked there until it closed. He transferred to the Lolo Ranger District where he was employed until his retirement in 1975.

He is survived by his daughters Barbara and Beverly.

Farrell Cooper, 81, of Barton, Montana, died December 23, 1999, at his home. Born in Louisville, Utah, Farrell had 24 years of federal service. He served in the U.S. Army, the 58th Quartermaster Regiment Company A, from in Europe and Africa. In 1955, Farrell and his family moved to Montana. At some point he began working for the Lolo Ranger District, Lolo National

Forest, in trail management, eventually transferring to the Ninemile Remount Station. He retired after 24 years as assistant fire control manager.

Survivors include his wife Rosalie; sons, Darrell and Don; and five daughters: Sandra, Cathy, Sharon, Debra, and Kaylene.

Millard Rennaker, 78, of Darby, Montana, died January 14. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942-45, as a medic overseas with the 480th in Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion. Born in Hamilton, Montana, Millard returned home to the Bitterroot Valley where he worked in the timber industry until retirement.

He then was employed as a groundskeeper for the Forest Service at the Darby Ranger District.

Survivors include his wife Marjorie and children Randy, Mick, Robin, Karen, and Tom.

Walt Smith, 52, passed away January 23 at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula due to complications while recovering from surgery. A native of Minneapolis, Walt was raised in Hamilton, Montana.

Walt's federal service included a tour of duty with the Marine Corps from 1966-68. He received two Purple Hearts while serving in Viet Nam. While attending college at the University of Montana, Walt began working for the Forest Service.

Walt was a member of the Bitterroot Hotshot Crew and trained as a smokejumper in Boise, Idaho. He transferred to the Missoula Smokejumper Base in 1974, and worked his way up to regional smokejumper training foreman. During his smokejumper career, Walt periodically worked on details to the Olympic and Bitterroot National Forests. He was recognized on numerous occasions for his assistance and support of military parachute programs, assistance to other federal agencies, and for coordination with Russian smokejumper counterparts.

Walt retired from the Forest Service in August of 1997, as the Sula Ranger District District fire management officer on the Bitterroot National Forest. During retirement Walt continued to play an active role in the wildland fire suppression arena as a safety officer and military liaison on large fires across the country. Walt is survived by his wife Shirley and daughter Polly.

Northern Region News GUIDELINES

We welcome your articles.

Text requirements:

No more than 3/4 page or 350 words. Send electronically in an RTF file. If you wish assistance in writing an article, just call Gloria Weisgerber at (406) 329-3094.

Photos:

Send original photo by mail or electronically. Photos sent electronically should be scanned at 300 dpi in grayscale and placed in a TIFF file. Keep as close to 100% in size as possible. Any questions, contact Carol Evans (406) 329-3097.

Northern Region News is published by:

Public and Governmental Relations
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Editor: Gloria Weisgerber
Layout/Graphics: Carol Evans
Personnel Information: Matt Gordon

Retirees' Luncheon

There will be a retirees luncheon at 12:30, May 19, 2000, at Templins Resort in Post Falls, Idaho. All Forest Service retirees are welcome. Come early to visit with old friends!

To sign up, contact John Bushfield at 208-765-4918.

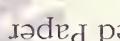
COMING SOON...

Your *Northern Region News* will soon be available on the FS Web. We will notify employees by e-mail when the latest issue is available, with a hyper-link to that issue. That means we will not tell you to go find the issue—we will bring it to you, with the touch of a hyper-link!

We will continue to print a limited number of copies to forward to retirees, forests and the Regional Office.

We hope to announce the FS Web site address in the next issue of the NRN.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Federal Recycling Program Printed on Recycled Paper

NATL AG LIB USDA
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS RM 002
10301 BALTIMORE BLVD
BELTSVILLE MD 20705

Official Use - Penalty for Private Use \$300

Missoula, MT 59807

P.O. Box 7669

USDA Forest Service

The Northern Region News

BULK RATE

Postage & Fees Paid
USDA Forest Service
Permit No. G-40

